

# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**  
Secretary to the Commission

**VOLUME 11. Part 26. Pp. 391—400**

## **OPINION 376**

Suppression under the Plenary Powers of the generic name *Lobacantha* Kirby (W.), 1837, for the purpose of rendering the generic name *Platypria* Guérin-Méneville, 1840 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera) the oldest available name for the genus concerned



**LONDON :**

Printed by Order of the International Trust for  
Zoological Nomenclature  
and

Sold on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological  
Nomenclature by the International Trust at its Publications Office  
41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7  
1955

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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 376

### A. The Officers of the Commission

*Honorary Life President* : Dr. Karl Jordan (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts., England*)

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*President* : Professor James Chester Bradley (*Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., U.S.A.*) (12th August 1953)

*Vice-President* : Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*) (12th August 1953)

*Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*) (27th July 1948)

### B. The Members of the Commission

(*Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*)

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Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (27th July 1948) (*Secretary*)

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Dr. L. B. HOLTHUIS (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (12th August 1953)

## OPINION 376

SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE  
GENERIC NAME "LOBACANTHA" KIRBY (W.), 1837,  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENDERING THE GENERIC  
NAME "PLATYPRIA" GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE, 1840  
(CLASS INSECTA, ORDER COLEOPTERA) THE  
OLDEST AVAILABLE NAME FOR THE GENUS  
CONCERNED

**RULING** :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers the generic name *Lobacantha* Kirby (W.), 1837, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 902 :—*Platypria* Guérin-Méneville, 1840 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by Maulik (1919) : *Hispa echidna* Guérin-Méneville, 1840) (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera).

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 523 :—*echidna* Guérin-Méneville, 1840, as published in the combination *Hispa echidna* (specific name of type species of *Platypria* Guérin-Méneville, 1840).

(4) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 315 :—*Lobacantha* Kirby (W.), 1837, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1) above.

## I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 27th July 1951 Herr Erich Uhmann (*Stollberg-Sachsen, Germany*) submitted to the Commission (through Professor Dr. E. M. Hering (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)) a preliminary application for the suppression under the Plenary Powers of the generic name *Lobacantha* Kirby, 1837 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera), a senior, but totally overlooked, subjective synonym of the name *Platypria* Guérin-Ménéville, 1840. Certain minor adjustments were needed in the form of this application in order to bring it into line with the requirements prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, and these were completed by 21st March 1952 when the following application was submitted by Herr Uhmann:—

**Proposed use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of suppressing the generic name “*Lobacantha*” Kirby, 1837, and thus rendering available the name “*Platypria*” Guérin-Ménéville, 1840 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera)<sup>1</sup>**

By ERICH UHMANN  
(*Stollberg-Sachsen, Germany*)

I desire to petition the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers for the purpose of suppressing the generic name *Lobacantha* Kirby, 1837 (*in Richardson, Faun. bor-amer.* (4) : 227), thereby rendering the well-known name *Platypria* Guérin-Ménéville, 1840 (*Rev. zool.*, Paris 1840 : 139) (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera, Family CHRYSOMELIDAE, Subfamily HISPINAE), the oldest available name for the genus in question.

2. The following are the relevant particulars relating to the names involved in this case:—

(1) *Lobacantha* Kirby, 1837

This name was introduced by Kirby as follows: “We have therefore here types of three subdivisions viz. *Hispa* proper,

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<sup>1</sup> This paper was numbered by Herr Uhmann as Number 115 in his series “Contribution to a knowledge of the Hispinae (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae).”

*Anoplitis*, and *Lobacantha*, as I would denominate *H. erinacea* and affinities, from the lobes crowned with spines . . . which project from the elytra ”.

The type species of this genus is therefore *Hispa erinacea* Fabricius, 1801 (*Syst. Eleuth.* 2 : 59, no. 3) by monotypy.

This generic name has been completely overlooked and is not to be found in a single paper or catalogue so far published.

(2) *Platypria* Guérin-Ménéville, 1840

Guérin gave a diagnosis for this genus and placed in it five nominal species. This generic name was introduced by Guérin in a discussion of the genus *Hispa*, and the five species placed by Guérin in *Platypria* were cited by him in combination with the generic name *Hispa*. The first of the five species in question was a species then described for the first time (: 139), to which Guérin gave the name *Hispa echidna*. The first author to select a type species for the genus *Platypria* Guérin was Maulik who in 1919 (*Faun. Brit. Ind. Coleopt. Hisp. Cassid.* : 256) so selected *Hispa echidna* Guérin.

3. The species which are the respective type species of *Lobacantha* Kirby, 1837, and *Platypria* Guérin, 1840, are currently regarded by specialists as being congeneric with one another. Accordingly, the generic name *Platypria* Guérin is a subjective junior synonym of the name *Lobacantha* Kirby.

4. The generic name *Platypria* Guérin has, however, been widely used in the literature of the last century and is a name of importance in applied entomology, being the name currently used for such economic species as *P. andrewesi* Weise, which occurs in India, *P. echinogale* Gestro, which occurs in Sumatra, and *P. erinacea* (Fabricius) and *P. hystrix* (Fabricius), both Indian species. For the foregoing reasons it would be most undesirable that the name *Platypria* Guérin should now be sunk as a synonym of *Lobacantha* Kirby, in view especially of the fact that the latter name has never been used at all except on the single occasion on which it was first published by Kirby.

5. In the interest of nomenclatorial stability, I therefore now ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

- (1) to use its Plenary Powers to suppress the generic name *Lobacantha* Kirby, 1837, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;

- (2) to place the generic name *Platypria* Guérin-Méneville, 1840 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by selection by Maulik (1919) : *Hispa echidna* Guérin-Méneville, 1840) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (3) to place the generic name *Lobacantha* Kirby, 1837, as proposed, under (1) above, to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) to place the trivial name *echidna* Guérin-Méneville, 1840, as published in the binominal combination *Hispa echidna* (trivial name of type species of *Platypria* Guérin-Méneville, 1840) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* .

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

**2. Registration of the present application :** Upon the receipt of Herr Uhmann's application, the question of the possible use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of suppressing the generic name *Lobacantha* Kirby was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 593.

**3. Publication of the present application :** The present application was sent to the printer on 19th May 1952 and was published on 23rd July of that year in Part 9 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Uhmann, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 266—267).

**4. Issue of Public Notices :** Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology,

Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 23rd July 1952 (a) in Part 9 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Herr Uhmans's application was published), and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Public Notice was given also to certain general zoological serial publications and to a number of entomological serials in Europe and America.

**5. No objection received to action proposed :** The issue of the Public Notices specified in paragraph 4 above elicited no objection to the action proposed from any source.

### III.—THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(54)38 :** On 24th March 1954, a Voting Paper (V.P.(54)38) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the name *Platypria* Guérin, 1840, as set out in paragraph 5 on page 267 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in paragraph 5 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

**7. The Prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 24th June, 1954.

**8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)38 :** At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)38 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following nineteen (19) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Riley ; Holthuis ; Lemche ; Hering ; Vokes ; Bonnet ; Dymond ; Esaki ; Mertens ; Jaczewski ; Boschma ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Hankó ; do Amaral ; Hemming ; Pearson ; Stoll ; Cabrera ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

**9. Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 26th June 1954, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(54)38, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

**10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Opinion " :** On 27th March 1955 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)38.



**11. Original References :** The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

*echidna*, *Hispa*, Guérin-Méneville, 1840, *Rev. zool.*, Paris  
1840 : 139

*Lobacantha* Kirby (W.), 1837, in Richardson, *Fauna bor.-amer.*  
(4) : 227

*Platypria* Guérin-Méneville, 1840, *Rev. zool.*, Paris 1840 : 139

**12.** The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for the genus *Platypria* Guérin-Méneville, 1840, specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—Maulik, 1919, *Faun. Brit. Ind.*, Coleopt. Hisp. Cassid. : 256.

**13. Family-Group-Name aspects :** No family-group-name problem arises in the present case, as the genus *Platypria* Guérin-Méneville is not the type genus of a family-group taxon, being currently referred to the subfamily HISPINAE of the family CHRYSOMELIDAE (see paragraph 1 of Herr Uhmann's application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*).

**14.** At the time of the submission of the present application the name applicable to the second portion of a binomen was "trivial name". This was altered to "specific name" by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, which at the same time made corresponding changes in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of names of this category. These changes in terminology have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

**15.** The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

16. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred and Seventy-Six (376) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Seventh day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Five.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**